(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the post-privatisation performance of these units on quantitative, financial, employment generation, and new investment?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Comptroller & Auditor General follows certain well established procedures, involving different activities and time-frames for auditing the Government transactions. The Government's role is limited to providing to the Comptroller & Auditor General documents sought for and clarifications thereon, which the Government has been doing with promptitude.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c) above.

(e) The basic structure of the provisions relating to labour in the Shareholders' Agreement (SHA) entered into by the Government with the strategic partners at the time of the disinvestment were considered adequate to take care of labour issues.

(f) There is a trend of improved performance post-disinvestment on quantitative, financial and investment parameters. It is difficult to estimate the full impact of privatisation on employment generation.

Paid-up Capital for new entrants in aviation sector

*211. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that private airlines have requested him for an increase in paid-up capital for the new entrants in the sector and also not to allow foreign airlines to pick up equity in domestic carriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During discussions, some suggestions have been received regarding enhancement of equity requirement for new entrants as well as barring foreign airlines from investing in the doemstic civil aviation sector.

(c) These issues would be addressed in the civil aviation policy, which is under preparation.

LPG agencies in Nagaland

*212. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies allotted in Nagaland during the last three years;

(b) the target fixed for allotment of LPG agencies in the State during the above period; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) During the last three years, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have allotted 2 LPG distributorships in the State of Nagaland. In addition, 1 LPG distributorship has been allotted during 2004-05 (upto June), which will take the total number of distributorships in the State to 25.

(b) At present, three locations in earlier marketing plans are pending for interview in Nagaland.

(c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) plans to complete the interviews before September, 2004 and commission the distributorship within the financial year 2004-05.

Reduction in social sector spending by States

*213. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cash strapped State Governments have been trying to bring their fiscal deficit under control by drastically cutting down their social sector spending;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the reduced spending on social sector affects the vital public services leading to enhancement of poverty;

(c) if so, whether Government have carried out any study to find out reasons for stagnation in the expenditure on social services by majority States; and